

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /059 W

-----113046 210404Z /14

R 200846Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6525

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 7398

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, EGEN, MY

SUBJECT: US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL - MALAYSIAN DELEGATION

REF: (A) STATE 183257 (B) KUALA LUMPUR 7131

1. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ASEAN, KASSIM HUSSEIN, INFORMED US THIS MORNING THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION TO THE US-ASEAN TALKS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

--TENGKU AHMAD RITHAUDEEN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

--KASSIM HUSSEIN, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ASEAN, MFA

--THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER

--TWO OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

--ONE OFFICIAL FROM THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

--ONE OFFICIAL FROM THE FEDERAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDEEN EXPECTS TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON DIRECTLY FROM BELGRADE ON AUGUST 1 AND DEPART FOR MALAYSIA ON AUGUST 5. CONSEQUENTLY, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW YORK PROGRAM.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOM GAVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO CONFIDENTIAL

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NAMING DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY MAHATHIR TO HEAD THE DELEGATION. IT CAME TO THE CONCLUSION, HOWEVER, THAT WITH PHILIPPINE FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO LEADING

THE ASEAN DELEGATIONS, IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR MALAYSIA'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN A SUBORDINATE

POSITION.

3. AS A RESULT OF OUR EARLIER EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO THE MANILA MEETING, WE DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS. MINISTER OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES TAIB MAHMOUD WOULD BE THE MOST LOGICAL ONE BECAUSE OF MALAYSIA'S PARTICULAR INTEREST IN COMMODITIES ISSUES. HOWEVER, TAIB IS RUNNING FOR REELECTION IN SARAWAK, WHERE THE ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL THIS WEEKEND. CONSEQUENTLY, HIS POSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE CLEAR UNTIL NEXT WEEK.
MILLER

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